

Priorities: Sorting Out Nice From Necessary

*"Simplify Your Life", Part 3 of 5
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I) THE PROBLEM WITH A PRIORITY-FREE LIFE

"The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, 'What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?' Moses answered him, 'Because the people come to me...'"

"Moses' father-in-law replied, 'What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.'" (Exodus 18:13-15 & 17-18, NIV)

***Eventually we all realize that
we CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.**

II) THE PURSUIT OF A PRIORITY-FOCUSED LIFE

"Now let me give you some good advice... It is right for you to represent the people before God and bring their disputes to him." (Exodus 18:19, TEV)

***We must learn to discern the NICE
from the NECESSARY.**

III) THE PRACTICE OF A PRIORITY-BASED LIFE

1) Pace: Don't let your "eyes" get bigger than YOUR "STOMACH".

"Moses answered him, 'Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws.' [Jethro]: 'The work is too heavy for you... It is right for you to represent the people before God and bring their disputes to Him. You should teach them God's commands... But...'" (Exodus 18:15-16, 18b & 19b-20, NIV & TEV)

2) Partnership: Always look to deliberately DELEGATE DUTIES.

"But in addition, you should choose some capable men and appoint them as leaders of the people... they must be God-fearing men who can be trusted..." (Exodus 18:21a,c, TEV)

3) Perspective: Break big projects into SMALLER SUB-PROJECTS.

"Appoint them as... leaders of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens... They can bring all the difficult cases to you, but they themselves can decide the smaller disputes. This will make it easier for you, as they share the burden." (Exodus 18:21b-22, TEV)

4) Peace: Yield complete control of the matter TO GOD.

"Now let me give you some good advice, and God will be with you..." (Exodus 18:19a, TEV)

IV) THE PRODUCT OF A PRIORITY-FOCUSED LIFE

1) Your STRESS will only be temporary.

"...If you do this, as God commands, you will not wear yourself out..." (Exodus 18:23, TEV)

2) Your SANITY LEVEL will be permanent.

"They served as judges for the people on a permanent basis..." (Exodus 18:26, TEV)